

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 267893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: BOMB/WEAPON DETECTION EQUIPMENT

REF: KUWAIT 4423

1. THE DETECTION OF EXPLOSIVES PER SE HAS PROVEN TO BE
QUITE DIFFICULT.

A. PROBABLY THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF EXPLOSIVE DE-
TECTION UNDER VARIED CONDITIONS, SUCH AS OUT-OF-DOORS,
INDOORS, IN VEHICLES, IN BAGS, AND IN OTHER CONTAINERS IS
THE USE OF TRAINED DOGS.

B. IF OBJECTS CAN BE X-RAYED IT IS OFTEN POSSIBLE TO
IDENTIFY EXPLOSIVES OR ASSOCIATED ITEMS SUCH AS WIRING OR
DETONATORS. SUITABLE EQUIPMENTS ARE DISCUSSED IN A LATER
PARAGRAPH.

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C. UNDER SOMEWHAT SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, EXPLOSIVE VAPOR DETECTION EQUIPMENT CAN BE USED. TYPICAL UNIT'S COST FROM 6,000 TO 12,000 DOLLARS.

2. THE BEST ACCEPTED WEAPONS DETECTORS ARE X-RAY EQUIPMENT AND METAL DETECTORS.

A. HAND-HELD METAL DETECTORS SUITABLE FOR CHECKING PACKAGES OR PEOPLE VARY IN PRICE FROM 100 TO 500 DOLLARS.

B. WALK-THROUGH METAL DETECTORS ARE AVAILABLE IN VARYING DEGREES OF SOPHISTICATION AND COST FROM 2,000 TO 10,000 DOLLARS.

C. PORTABLE X-RAY SYSTEMS FOR INSPECTION OF PACKAGES OR OBJECTS CAN BE OBTAINED FOR 2,500 DOLLARS AND UP BUT ARE BEST SUITED FOR OCCASIONAL CHECKS RATHER THAN CONTINUOUS USE.

D. TABLE-TOP FLUOROSCOPIC X-RAY UNITS ARE ADEQUATE FOR MODERATE AMOUNTS AND SIZES OF PACKAGES. THEY CAN BE PURCHASED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES AND COST FROM 5,000 TO 15,000 DOLLARS.

E. CONVEYOR BELT X-RAY SYSTEMS WITH VIEWING SCREENS AND IMAGE STORAGE ARE NEEDED FOR LARGE VOLUME PACKAGE INSPECTION OPERATIONS. SUCH UNITS WILL TYPICALLY COST 30,000 DOLLARS AND ARE AVAILABLE FROM A NUMBER OF MANUFACTURERS.

3. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MAINTAINS ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON DETECTION OF MILITARY TYPE DEMOLITION DEVICES FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IF GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT IS INTERESTED IN MILITARY EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL, EMBASSY SHOULD DETERMINE EXACT NATURE OF GOK INTEREST AND TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION TO DEFENSE. KISSINGER

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